

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 248

Expressing the Sense of the Senate concerning the individual Indian money
account trust fund lawsuit.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 21, 2003

Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. DOMENICI, and Ms.
STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Indian Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the Sense of the Senate concerning the individual
Indian money account trust fund lawsuit.

Whereas, in exchange for ceding hundreds of millions of acres
of land and other valuable consideration by Indian tribes,
the United States was obligated to protect Indian funds
and resources;

Whereas, since the 19th century, the United States has held
Indian funds and resources in trust for the benefit of In-
dians;

Whereas the Senate reaffirms that in continuing to hold and
manage Indian funds and resources for the benefit of the
Indians, the United States should act in accordance with
the highest fiduciary standards;

Whereas, in 1996, a class action was brought against the United States seeking a historical accounting of balances of individual Indian money accounts;

Whereas after 8 years of litigation and the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars in Federal funds, the Senate believes that continued litigation will not provide significant benefits to, or serve the interests of, the members of the class; and

Whereas, subsequent to the filing of the class action, the Indians and the United States have tried without success to reach settlement of the Indian claims: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

3 It is the sense of the Senate that—

4 (1) the interests of Indians and the United
5 States would best be served by a voluntary alter-
6 native claims resolution process that will lead to a
7 full, fair, and final settlement of potential individual
8 Indian money account claims; and

9 (2) legislation is necessary to establish a vol-
10 untary alternative claims resolution process and
11 achieve a full, fair, and final settlement of potential
12 individual Indian money account claims.

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